



919 SW Grady Way, Suite 120
Renton WA 98055-2980
206-205-3100 711 (TDD-relay)
1-800-325-6165, X 53100
FAX 206-296-0952

Press Release

From: Paul Racette
Extension Watershed Stewardship Program Coordinator
Contact: Paul Racette, 206-205-3171

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TRAIN TO BE A WATERSHED STEWARD

LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE LAND AND WATER RESOURCES OF KING COUNTY.

Whether you'd like to join citizen efforts to restore urban creeks in Seattle or help preserve the rural watersheds of King County, you can learn the latest on protecting land and water resources by becoming an Extension Watershed Steward. The Spring 2004 Extension Watershed Stewardship Training Program will explore how stewards can better understand the connections between urban, rural, and wild landscapes of King County. **Applications will be available in December, and must be completed and returned by Feb. 25, 2004.**

Washington State University Extension in King County sponsors the Extension Watershed Stewardship Program. In exchange for 70 or more hours of training, participants return 60 volunteer hours during the following year through a variety of both structured and self-initiated activities, ranging from leading field trips, to staffing public education booths, to conducting workshops, to creating new outreach efforts. Volunteer service can be tailored to individual preferences and talents.

The nine-week training including field trips will begin in April. Space is limited, and participants will be selected based on their interest in volunteering and their background in natural resources. A fee of \$35 is charged to help offset costs of materials and some transportation.

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The classroom and field training emphasizes practical watershed stewardship including such topics as watershed science, salmon enhancement, forest resources, wetlands, geology, hydrology,

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wildlife, and interactions between people and watersheds. Instruction is provided by a wide array of experts from WSU Extension, public agencies, private organizations and citizens groups.

Since its inception in 1990 the program has trained more than 250 King County volunteers to help others make educated choices about the use of our land and resources.

To receive complete information and an application, please call Paul Racette at 206-205-3171 or e-mail at paul.racette@metrokc.gov. Those outside the 206 area code may call toll-free to 1-800-325-6165 and ask for extension 5-3171. Or visit our web site www.metrokc.gov/WSU-CE/Land&Water/ (an application can also be downloaded from web site).

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(Note to publisher: an electronic version of this press release is available at <http://www.metrokc.gov/WSU-CE/Land&Water/>)